The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL!
To Repeal
Taft-Hartley Law

WHOLE NO. 1929 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1948 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 38, NO. 13

Supreme Court Sets Hearing Date For Case Involving Political Activity

Washington.—The Supreme Court set Monday, April 29, as the date for hearing argument on the Taft-Hartley law's ban against the expenditure of union funds for political purposes.

The court also agreed to hear AFL arguments against state laws outlawing the closed shop in Arizona and North Carolina. Both laws were upheld by the state courts in cases involving AFL affiliates.

The AFL contends that the state laws violate civil rights, such as freedom of contract. The Constitution does not allow states to impair the obligations of contracts, although Congress, which banned closed shops in the Taft-Hartley law, is free to do so.

The case involving political action by labor unions stemmed from the fact that the law made it a crime for a labor organization to spend any money in connection with a federal election, or with a caucus, convention, or primary to pick candidates for a federal election.

Philip Murray, CIO president and the CIO itself were indicted under the law for participating in such activities. Similarly, an AFL union in Hartford, Connecticut is under indictment for alledgely breaking the law when it published advertisements in newspapers urging the defeat of all supporters of the Taft-Hartley law.

Murray and the CIO faced fines until a federal court threw out the indictment on the grounds that the law's ban on political activity was unconstitutional. Final action on the case involving the AFL union has not been taken as this edition went to press.

In considering the CIO case, Federal Judge Ben Moore dismissed the charges and said the section of the law under which they were brought was against the Constitution, being an unlawful abridgment of freedom of speech, press, and assembly. It was the first time that any court had voided any part of the act.

Solicitor General Philip B. Perlman at once appealed to the Supreme Court. The hearing late in April makes it almost sure that there will be a ruling in time for the national campaigns this summer and fall.

There are now about 20 states that have laws against the closed shop—that is, contracts saying employers who sign them will hire only members of the unions in their plants.

Textile Workers Set Up Political Unit; Conclave Urges Repeal of Punitive Law

Washington.—The executive council of the AFL's United Textile Workers of America set up a UTW Political and Educational League to marshal political support for prolabor candidates in the 1948 elections.

The council acted following conclusion of the union's highly successful 10th biennial convention held here and attended by over 375 delegates representing 32 states and the Dominion of Canada.

Creation of the political unit to fight labor's foes came after delegates to the convention passed a sizzling resolution calling for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law which was described as "unjust, discriminatory, vindictive, and unconscionable."

Coupling its condemnation of the new labor measure with constructive criticism, the resolution urged reenactment of the Wagner Act and the promotion of industrial peace through sincere collective bargaining.

Reelected as top officers of the United Textile Workers were Anthony Valente, president, and Lloyd Klenert, secretary-treasurer.

In a report to the convention Secretary-Treasurer Klenert revealed the amazing growth of the union since the last biennial convention in 1946. In that interval membership jumped by 25 percent to a new high of 75,000 dues-paying union members. Approximately 5,000 of the new members are in the southern states where the AFL has carried on an intensive organizing drive. The union holds contracts affecting over 107,000 workers in plants over the nation, Klenert reported.

In other convention action, delegates voted to raise the monthly per capita tax from $.50 to $.75 to strengthen the international union against anticipated Taft-Hartley attacks, and favored a legislative program as follows: FEPC legislation, equal pay for women workers, the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill, federal aid to education, increase in the minimum wage to $.75 an hour, and reenactment of price control.

In its post-convention session the UTW executive council repudiated the third party candidacy of Henry Wallace and went on record in favor of a strong policy of national defense for this nation including an adequate regular armed force and a program of universal military training.

Where Do You Stand?

How do you regard the Taft-Hartley Act?

Are you for it or against it?

Recently, Senator Robert A. Taft and other supporters of this legislation have been making speeches trying to make the public believe that the Taft-Hartley Act is opposed only by labor leaders and that the rank and file of labor union members are really in favor of it.

We think the public ought to know the truth.

That is why we are conducting this nation-wide poll.

This is an entirely secret ballot. We want you to express your honest opinion with perfect freedom. All you have to do is to place a check in the box beside either of the two questions below and mail the clipping to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

I am for the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

I am against the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

Please mark your ballot above and mail to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Note to Editors:—Labor's own poll has been designed to find out whether there is any basis for the claim that union members are in favor of the Taft-Hartley law. Editors are requested to give wide publicity to the poll and urge their readers to participate in the balloting.

Persons of Voting Age at Record Total; Census Bureau Sees 94 Million by Nov.

Washintgon, D. C.—The task which labor has cut out for itself in its efforts to obtain maximum registration of eligible voters in the forthcoming November elections, was revealed in a report released by the Census Bureau.

The estimate predicts that by November 2, there will be a total of 94,815,000 persons of voting age in the United States.

The figure includes all persons 21 years and over, including members of the armed forces overseas, and some 174,000 persons in Georgia between 18 and 21, entitled by state law to vote.

The total exceeds, however, those eligible to vote. From the figure there must be subtracted some 2,000,000 aliens, and an unascertainable number of persons of voting age in mental institutions, penitentiaries, the District of Columbia, and persons in states other than those where they have voting privileges. State laws are so varied, the Census Bureau said, that an accurate estimate of persons eligible to vote is impossible to obtain.

The increase in population of voting age since 1940, the bureau estimated, is 10,644,000, or almost 13 percent. It is about 5,400,000 greater than in 1944.

By next November, women of voting age will outnumber men by 1,670,000, the report stated. For every 100 women of voting age, there will be only 96.5 men. The increase in the proportion of women over 21 to men has been growing steadily since 1910, it was pointed out.

This "reflects the effect of the more favorable death rates for females than for males in these ages, and the marked decline in immigration since 1924. Until recently male immigrants have greatly exceeded female immigrants."

The bureau noted that the population 21 years old and over is generally regarded as the maximum eligible to vote. But that maximum has never been obtained because the figure contains large numbers of persons who have not satisfied requirements of citizenship, residence, registration, or payment of poll taxes.

New Members of AFL Staff

John J. Murphy

New Director of Organization for the AFL is John J. Murphy, former AFL regional director in New England. He was appointed to succeed Frank P. Fenton, who was elevated to the post of International Representative for the AFL.

Serafino Romauldi

Mr. Romauldi was named to the new post of Latin-American representative for the AFL. He is also serving as secretary of Inter-American Relations for the newly-formed Inter-American Confederation of Labor in which the AFL is participating.

AFL Drives for Vote on Oleo Taxes; Urges Affiliates to Appeal to Congress

AFL President William Green urged all State Federations of Labor to appeal to their Congressmen to sign the petition releasing legislation to repeal oleomargarine taxes from the Committee on Agriculture so that Congress can have the opportunity at this session to vote on the issue.

More than 100 Representatives already have signed the petition, Mr. Green said in his letter. A total of 218 signatures is necessary to bring the measure for repeal of the "unjust" oleomargarine taxes to the floor of the House of Representatives for action, Mr. Green explained. The text of his letter follows:

"The representatives of the American Federation of Labor have appealed to Congress to enact legislation now pending in Congress which provides for the repeal of the unjust tax on oleomargarine into law. Notwithstanding this appeal made by the representatives of the American Federation of Labor and others, the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture has refused to report this legislation after extended hearings. As a result an effort is now being made by those who favor the repeal of the unjust tax legislation on oleomargarine to force the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture to report this legislation for a vote. This action can only be made possible if 218 members of Congress sign a petition for the release of this legislation from the Committee on Agriculture. More than 100 names have already been signed to the petition.

"In order to help in this fight which is being made to secure action on this unjust tax legislation on oleomargarine, I am calling upon the officers of state federations of labor to communicate with their representatives in Congress appealing to them to sign the petition to have the legislation now pending on unjust tax legislation on oleomargarine reported to Congress for action. Therefore, I appeal to you to communicate with your representatives in Congress and to call upon the representatives of labor in your state to do likewise, and to urge them to sign the petition referred to and to favor the repeal of the unjust tax on oleomargarine.

"It is indeed an imposition upon the workers of the nation to require them to continue to pay a heavy federal tax when they purchase oleomargarine particularly during these days of rising prices and the high cost of living.

"Let us carry on the fight vigorously and militantly for the enactment of legislation which will make it possible for the masses of the people to buy oleomargarine if they wish, free from federal taxes."

Tactics of Medical Lobby Denounced; Plan to 'Fix' Cartoonists Is Exposed

Washington.—The campaign carried on by propagandists for the American Medical Association against a system of national health insurance has sunk to a new low in terms of morality and decency.

Boldly resorting to trickery, the "National Physicians' Committee" launched a $3,000 prize contest among newspaper cartoonists for the best cartoons actually published in their own papers lampooning health insurance.

Sponsors of the contest are interested in maintaining the status quo in medical care because the status quo favors the doctors and the large patent drug manufacturers.

The contest has aroused the public press over the shady proposition to "buy" space in newspapers to present a vicious campaign against any progressive measures in the field of health.

An editorial in "Editor and Publisher," a trade magazine in the publishing industry, denounced the contest as a "subtle bribe to cartoonists to support or oppose certain political beliefs and to obtain general circulation for those beliefs in newspapers and magazines."

"In other words," the editorial declared, "large cash awards are offered to cartoonists for doing a propaganda job in behalf of the physicians' committee."

The magazine classified the phony contest as a "threat to independent thinking, objective and unbiased reporting and comment in newspapers."

The contest sponsored by the committee is just one way in which the medical lobbyists have been spending their slush funds which run close to half a million dollars yearly. For 1948 the committee hopes to spend $800,000 in their efforts to defeat any proposal which aims to make good medical care available to the nation's citizens by means of a payroll deduction insurance plan.

This money is used to prepare pamphlets, advertising, and other forms of publicity with which to deluge and delude the American public with a flood of propaganda, which is tricky, unreliable, and smacks of the "smear" variety.

Medical insurance plans are pictured as the favorite instrument for the imposition of fascism or communism on America. The support given the plan by labor organizations, is characterized by the propaganda artists as having been obtained by the plotting of "leftist representatives" in labor unions.

The report of the physicians' committee under the lobby regulation law gives a clew to the backers of its activities. The report shows that 15 patent medicine manufacturers kicked in with $70,000 for the 1947 war chest piled up by the committee. Individual doctors who may have contributed are not shown on the report unless they put in more than $500. Since the total raised in 1947 was $389,000, it is obvious that many physicians made donations under $500 in order to escape the requirement of the lobbying law which provides for the listing of all donations in excess of that figure.

CONN. ARBITRATION AWARD FAVORABLE TO AFL UNION

Middletown, Conn.—Members of Federal Labor Union 21577 here received a 10½ percent wage increase under terms of an arbitration award handed down by the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration.

The increase, which is retroactive to December 1, 1947, is made up of a 2½ percent boost on a permanent basis and an 8 percent cost-of-living adjustment to cover increases in prices since March 1947. During the life of the contract further adjustments will be made on the basis.

In addition to the wage increase, the award provided for 6 paid holidays each year.

COLLEGE BUILDING NEEDS PLACED AT $5 BILLION

Washington.—Colleges and universities have to double their existing facilities to meet increased enrollments, according to a survey prepared by the U. S. Office of Education.

The cost of such expansion is estimated at about $5,000,000,000, the report declared.

Work in progress amounts to only about one-fifth of the construction required to reduce overcrowding and to replace obsolescent buildings, it is reported. In this is included the used wartime buildings which have been allotted to educational institutions under federal aid plans.

ITU Denied Stay Of Injunction; Union Will Comply With Order

'No Contract' Policy Nullified As Basis Of Negotiations

Hammond, Indiana.—Federal Judge Luther M. Swygert refused to suspend the temporary injunction he issued against the AFL's International Typographical Union pending an appeal of the case by union attorneys.

The injunction, issued at the request of the government, acting under the Taft-Hartley law, restrains the union and its principal officers from encouraging strikes in violation of the law.

The order will remain in effect until the National Labor Relations Board completes action on the charges brought against the union by the American Newspaper Publishers Association.

Union attorneys, Gerhard P. Van Arkel and Henry Kaiser, said the union would comply with the terms of the injunction which for its duration nullifies the union's "no contract" policy as a basis of the union's negotiations with publishers.

A joint statement prepared by union counsel and attorneys for the NLRB outlined the manner of operation for the union under the injunction. The statement said:

"In view of the denial of a stay pending appeal on the decree issued by Judge Luther M. Swygert, attorneys for the general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board and the International Typographical Union discussed the problems arising out of compliance with the decree.

"The union will immediately take steps to comply with the decree during the life of the injunction and until the final order of the NLRB.

"It was understood that negotiations would begin looking toward the termination of any present strikes in the newspaper publishing industry, and that support by the International Typographical Union of current strikes would be contingent upon the striking local union's full compliance with new instructions to be issued by the international union in accordance with the decree.

"The outline of a form agreement was arrived at which might be offered as a basis for negotiations not in conflict with the terms of the decree.

"The international union agreed to recommend such form of agreement which does not contain any discriminatory provisions based on union membership or nonmembership to its local unions as a basis for negotiations, to instruct its local unions to disregard advice previously given, and to enter into agreements for a definite term."

Opinions given by the opposing counsel made it clear that current newspaper printers' strikes, payment of strike benefits by the international union, picketing, and other strike activities, could continue without risk to the international of contempt of court action by Mr. Denham, provided the international advised its 850 locals to notify their employers of their willingness to bargain in good faith, and withdraw previous instructions to locals to insist on a "no contract policy."

Coal Walkout Continues; Lewis Ordered Into Court

Washington.—Federal Judge Richmond B. Keech ordered John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of Amrica, into court to show cause why he should not testify before the fact-finding board appointed to study the walkout of the nation's coal miners.

This was the latest development, as this edition went to press, in the government's campaign under the Taft-Hartley law to force a settlement of the dispute by resorting to the law's emergency provisions.

The walkout in the coal industry, the labor disputes involving the International Typographical Union, and the strike of office employes against the New York Stock and Curb Exchanges came on the heels of a majority report issued by the joint watch-dog" labor relations committee of the Senate and House which declared the Taft-Hartley law has brought fewer strikes, is working well, and is "promoting the adjustment of labor problems equitably and in more friendly and cooperative relationships."

The cessation of work in the coal industry has forced the curtailment of train schedules, reduced the export of coal, and if it continues, threatens to further disrupt the economic life of the nation. It is estimated that the work stoppage so far has cost the nation $500,000,000.

Mr. Lewis declined to testify before the President's fact-finding board on grounds that the union had not violated the Taft-Hartley law when the miners walked off their jobs. He maintained further that two members of the board were prejudiced.

The work stoppage in the coal industry took place over the failure of the union and employer representatives to agree on the terms of a pension plan to be financed from the 10 cents a ton paid by the employers into a miners' welfare fund. The fund now has reached the sum of nearly $32,000,000.

Stock Exchange Employes Go On Strike; Green Endorses Move and Urges Support

New York.—Over 1,100 members of Local 25 of the AFL's Office Employes International Union went on strike here against the New York Stock and Gurb Exchanges.

The strike was called when exchange officials refused to grant a union shop and wage increases asked by the union. In an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, an overwhelming majority of the employes voted for the union security measure.

Support for the striking members of the union came from the Seafarers International Union and the Sailors Union of the Pacific, both AFL affiliates, which sent about 500 of their members to join picket lines set up by the financial employes group.

Reports from the financial section of the city showed that trading activities on the securities exchanges had been hampered and slowed by the strike.

Not involved in the strike is the New York Cotton Exchange which negotiated a new agreement with the union incorporating a modified union shop and providing weekly wage increases ranging up to $6.50.

In Washington, AFL President William Green endorsed flatly and emphatically the strike being carried on by the Office Employes Union. He said:

"The American Federation of Labor will support the strike and those involved in the strike. We will cooperate fully and extend all help and assistance possible. I call upon our labor organizations in New York City and elsewhere to extend to these office workers who are on strike a full measure of support."

Paul R. Hutchings, president of the Office Employes International Union, said the union's executive board pledged its unanimous support to Local 205 in carrying on the strike. He declared:

"The strike is a clear cut example of the failure of this employing group to accord proper and legal union security to its clerical workers, despite the fact that by tremendous majority votes such members expressed their desire for union shop conditions in NLRB union shop election polls.

"The fight which we are presently waging in Wall Street revolves around the basic rights of clerical workers in the finance industry to union security, job protection, and other collective bargaining benefits."

AFL Union Wins Pension Plan Contract; Affects 3,000 Transit Workers In 9 States

Chicago.—An agreement establishing pensions of $50 monthly and upwards has been negotiated by the AFL's Amalgamated Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes for 3,000 members employed by the National City Lines.

The agreement is effective for 21 wholly owned subsidiaries of National City Lines operating in 9 middle western and southern states.

The pension plan adopted was "tailored to meet the needs and circumstances of operating companies in smaller cities," A. L. Spradling, international president of the union, declared.

"Combined with social security benefits, the pension payments enable the worker to face old age with greater confidence and the company to achieve greater efficiency and decreased turnover," he said.

Provisions of the agreement were made public by O. David Zimring, director of the Labor Bureau of Middle West, representative of the union in the negotiations.

He praised management representatives for their "progressive attitude and social vision in accomplishing a major forward step in industrial relations and community welfare."

Employes on the payroll the first year of the company's affiliation with National City Lines will receive 20 percent of their average basic wage upon retirement at 65. Employes disabled after 12 years of service will receive the same pension. For all other employes retirement on the same pension is optional at 65 after 20 years of service and compulsory at 70.

Employes will contribute 3 percent of their basic pay to the pension fund which will be brought up to actuarial requirements by company contributions. The company also will pay administration costs.

All funds will be deposited in the Continental Illinois Bank and Trust Company, of Chicago, under a trust agreement.

Company and union will designate three members each of a pension committee which will administer the plan, engage an actuary and counsel, and make annual reports.

In event of a dispute, a neutral person will be named by the committee to assist in arriving at a majority decision. Should the committee deadlock over naming the temporary additional member, the Director of the United States Conciliation Service will be asked to make the appointment.

SENATE GROUP EXTENDS FHA MORTGAGE LOAN PLAN

Washington.—The Senate Banking and Currency Committee by a unanimous vote authorized the continuance of the Federal Housing Administration's mortgage loan program for 2 months beyond March 31.

The Senate committee action would allow FHA to insure an additional $600,000,000 worth of home loans.

The House has passed a bill to continue the power 1 year and allow insurance of an additional $2,000,000,000 worth of loans. Up to now FHA has insured loans for $4,950,000,000.

Under both Senate and House bills, evaluation of homes would be on normal value, rather than current cost as at present.

NEW GAINS WON IN SOUTH BY AFL's MOLDERS UNION

Atlanta.—The International Molders and Foundry Workers Union of North America reported significant gains for molders in the Atlanta area when their standard contract was resigned by a number of firms in the Atlanta district.

The new contracts provide for an increase of 15 cents per hour for journeymen and 10 cents per hour for all other classifications of labor.

The contract entered into by the Atlanta concerns and the local Molders Union 273 was a standard contract providing for six paid holidays and a full and complete seniority setup, vacations with pay and many other benefits for the employes.

U. S. TRAINING PLANS SEEN AS AID TO EUROPE

Minneapolis.—The standards of the National Apprenticeship Program is a part of the American "know how" which could be exported to Europe to our mutual advantage, William F. Patterson, Director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship, said at the graduation exercises of the Twin City Building Trades Joint Apprenticeship Committees.

Patterson said that one of the things this nation should do for some of the nations less industrially developed than ours is to export skills, either by supplying them with engineers and craftsmen, or with our methods and procedures of producing them. He said that we should provide not only instructional techniques, but also the method of American employer-employe cooperation to advance their mutual well being as exemplified by voluntary joint management-labor participation in apprenticeship.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

LABOR'S GOAL!
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WILLIAM GREEN, President
WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1948
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Form For Filing Notice of Labor Dispute Released by Federal Mediation Service

Washington.—The release of a dispute notice form to be used by unions and employers when filing notices in compliance with Section 8(d)(3) of the Taft-Hartley law was announced by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Section 8(d) of the Labor Management Relations Act provides that where there is in effect a collective bargaining contract covering employes in an industry affecting commerce, the contract may not be terminated or modified without proper notification. Section 8(d) requires that the party desiring to terminate or modify an existing agreement must first serve a written notice upon the other party to the contract 60 days prior to the time it is proposed to terminate or modify the contract.

Subsequent to the filing of this first notice, the parties must offer to meet and confer for the purpose of negotiating a new or modified contract. If within 30 days after filing of the first notice no agreement has been reached, a notice must be filed with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and the appropriate state mediation agency.

Although the act does not require that this dispute notice form be used by the parties subject to the provisions of Section 8(d), it is believed that its use will serve their convenience and will enable the service more efficiently and economically to perform its statutory obligations.

The new form is available in all the offices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Copies have been sent to the national offices of many unions and employer organizations. To facilitate the use of the form, it may be reproduced without permission, provided it is copied in its entirety without change. All notices of dispute are to be filed with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Washington 25, D. C. Approximately 10,000 dispute notices have been filed since the act became effective.

Attorney Holds 'T-H' Law Responsible For the Breakdown of NLRB Machinery

Chicago.—Joseph M. Jacobs, a labor attorney here, charged that the Taft-Hartley law has caused a breakdown in the administrative activities of the National Labor Relations Board which "nullifies the substantial progress made toward national labor-management cooperation."

In an address before Local 80 of the AFL's United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Jacobs declared the terrific backlog of cases awaiting action by the NLRB, attributable to the new labor law, forces unions to wait a year to 18 months before elections can be held and issues settled.

This has brought about a situation in which real collective bargaining is impossible, he said.

"The statistical report covering the NLRB's activity during the first six months of Taft-Hartley," said Jacobs, "more than substantiates the dire predictions made by representaties of labor.

In a period of six months, the NLRB accumulated a backlog of 9,500 cases. After six months of Taft-Hartley the board is farther behind than it was after 11 years of operation under the Wagner Act.

"Nor is that the worst. Chairman Paul M. Herzog of the NLRB, when he was in Chicago to address the Industrial Relations Conference of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, predicted that the board expected more than 60,000 cases during 1948, which is six times more than the board ever could handle under the old Wagner Act.

Strike Activity Booming Despite Taft-Hartley Law

Washington.—The number of work stoppages resulting from labor-management disputes increased sharply in February, according to preliminary estimates released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Thus, while the joint Senate-House "watch-dog" committee on labor relations reported that all was well on the industrial front because of the beneficial effects of the Taft-Hartley law, strikes were actually on the increase.

The BLS report shows that 200 work stoppages took place during the month as compared with 175 during January. This total is above the average number of strikes reported during February for the years 1935-39, but is below the total which occurred in February, 1947, the bureau said.

The February data do not include the current large strikes of work stoppages in the meat and coal industries which began in March.

Most February stoppages were small. Only 2 controversies affected as many as 5,000 workers. These were stoppages of about 10,000 workers in the ladies garment industry in Los Angeles and of slightly more than 5,000 bakery workers in New York City.

Including approximately 100 stoppages which continued into February from earlier months, a total of 300 labor-management disputes were in effect at one time or another during February. These disputes involved, in the aggregate, about 110,000 workers.

The absence of relatively large stoppages, coupled with the settlement of several significant January controversies, reduced strike idleness to approximately 725,000 man-days in February as against 1,000,000 man-days in January.

All known work stoppages, arising out of labor-management disputes, involving six or more workers and continuing as long as a full day or shift are included in reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Figures on "workers involved" and "man-days idle" cover all workers made idle in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employes are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Oleo Supporters Gaining Strength

Washington.—The drive to force consideration of numerous bills to repeal the discriminatory taxes on oleomargarine by the whole House gained headway.

Opponents of the butter interests said they have nearly 200 of the required 218 signatures required to blast the bill out of the House Agriculture Committee. As this edition went to press, Representative Robert J. Twyman of Illinois predicted that the additional signatures will be obtained soon.

AFL President William Green has urged all AFL state federations of labor to join in the fight to get the measure before the House for a final vote on the issue.

In a straight butter-vs.-margarine vote, the committee recently decided, 12 to 8, to shelve all repeal bills for the remainder of the session. The petition would discharge the committee from further consideration and bring the question to the House floor.

Under the law, colored margarine is taxed 10 cents a pound and uncolored margarine one-fourth of a cent a pound.

FURNITURE WORKERS SELECT AFL UNIONS

Buffalo.—The National Labor Relations Board said that production employes of seven Rochester firms voted in favor of the AFL Upholsterers, Furniture and Bedding Workers Union in union shop elections held here.

RESERVE HOTEL ROOMS FOR BIG UNION SHOW

Washington.—To avoid disappointment at the last minute, Mr. I. M. Ornburn urged all trade unionists who expect to attend the Union-Industries Show in Milwaukee from May 12 to 16 to make arrangements for hotel accommodations immediately.

Hotel facilities reserved by the Metal Trades Department for the use of exposition visitors are limited, Mr. Ornburn warned.

It is recommended that requests for hotel reservations be mailed promptly to Mr. Phil Valley, Chairman, Housing Committee, 332 Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

COURT RULING LIMITS PICKETING RIGHTS

Montgomery, Ala.—The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that individual union members can be barred from picketing when their union holds a contract containing a no-strike clause.

The decision came in a case involving the AFL's International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the Alabama Cartage Company, a hauling firm.

By its ruling, the high court reversed a lower court decision which said that striking was a constitutional right and hence the picketing was legal.

The Supreme Court decision held that the right to picket was a "private, individual right which may be waived and was waived by the individuals constituting the union by en-

Cases Pouring In To NLRB; Backlog At New High Level

Washington.—Despite the transaction of a record volume of business in February, the National Labor Relations Board continued to slip farther behind than ever in its administration of the Taft-Hartley law.

For the fourth consecutive month, record numbers of cases were filed with the board to hopelessly bog it down under a case backlog of staggering proportions.

At the end of February 9,468 cases were pending disposition at various procedural levels. This total represents an increase of over 2,000 cases in one month, and is nearly 2½ times as great as the backlog of cases before the board on August 22, 1947, the effective date of the Taft-Hartley law.

During the month, 4,528 cases were filed with the NLRB, a figure never before equaled in the 12-year history of the board. The total for the month was 51 percent greater than the number of cases filed in January.

Of the cases filed, 93 percent were petitions for various types of elections and 3,564, or 84 percent, of these were petitions for union shop authorizations elections. In February, 1,473 union shop polls were conducted by the board, or less than half the number of such elections requested during that period.

Results of the union shop elections conducted continued to demonstrate the absurdity of the requirement of the law which makes the election procedure mandatory before a union and an employer may negotiate a union-shop contract.

Unions won 99 percent of the elections held and polled 95 percent of the valid votes cast. Of the 1,473 polls, the American Federation of Labor won 1,075.

The board conducted 266 collective bargaining elections in February among a total of 19,165 eligible voters. About 88 percent of those eligible to vote cast valid ballots.

Of the 16,445 valid votes, 74 percent were in favor of some labor organization as the bargaining representative for the workers involved. This percentage in favor of labor unions as bargaining agents was greater than that reached in January by 5 points.

AFL affiliates were involved in some 153 elections and came out the victor in 103 instances. They failed to win a majority in 37 elections while results were indeterminate on 5 occasions.

Committee Approves Federal Pay Bills; Postal Workers Get $800, Others $650

Washington.—By a narrow margin the Senate Civil Service Committee approved bills to raise the salaries of postal workers by a flat $800 and the pay of most other federal employes an average of $650.

In the House, a subcommittee approved the Rees bill which would give a flat $468 increase to the majority of federal workers. Final action by the full House committee has not been taken on this proposal.

The Senate committee's bill would raise postal workers' pay $800 a year on a permanent basis by means of legislation separate and distinct from other pay raise proposals.

Other federal employes would be affected by an omnibus bill which provides an increase of $650 and overhauls the Classification Act which, for years, has governed the salary scales of government workers.

The Senate bill also provides:

For an increase of 32.5 percent or $650, for legislative and judicial employes;

A boost of 40 cents an hour for postal employes who are paid an hourly or daily rate;

An increase of 30 cents an hour for employes (other than postal) who are paid an hourly or daily rate as fixed by the Classification Act; and,

Pay raises up to $5,000 each for Cabinet members and other federal officials.

The bills would go into effect within two weeks after they are enacted into law.

The committee bill would overhaul the Classification Act to give jobs and salaries a proper relationship. But in the revamping of the 1923 law, the 45 different grades would be merged into 10 comparable grades and two new grades would be added to provide salaries beyond $10,000.

The proposed new Grade 11 would have a salary range of $10,350; $10,950; $11,250 and $11,550. The proposed new Grade 12 would range up to a high of $15,000 a year, but the Civil Service Commission would have to give approval to all jobs given a Grade 12 rating.

Distillery Workers Report Progress In Conduct of Political Campaign

Chicago.—Last December units of the AFL's Distillery, Rectifying, and Wine Workers Union set up a political division to raise funds, get their membership registered, and to wage political campaigns in the various congressional districts, wards and precincts.

Following the organizational meeting of the national Labor's League for Political Education, Locals 3 and 62 of the Distillery Workers organized the Distilled Spirits Division of the league with headquarters in Chicago.

Joseph O'Neill, president of the union, named George G. Brody to serve as chairman of the political unit. Mr. Brody reported recently on the activities of the organization. He said:

"On objective (1), Raising Funds: Beginning with January 17, 1948, we called 12 meetings, each with 100 to 200 members in attendance, in order to set up as personal a relationship as possible. The important issues of the campaign, 'Taft-Hartley Law,' 'Cost of Living,' 'Housing,' 'Dry Issues,' were presented to the men, followed by questions and discussion from the floor. The members were asked to fill out a card giving his or her home congressional district, ward and precinct. A roll call was then taken and as each name was called, each man announced his voluntary cash contribution or pledge.

"Cash contributions and pledges, which have since been made good, went beyond our own estimates, and are still coming in.

"On objective (2), Registration to Vote: At the above mentioned meetings, registration of the men themselves, their families, friends, and neighbors was stressed. We followed up with a post card each week until 'Registration Day.'

"On objective (3), Congressional District, Ward and Precinct Committees: We have called meetings of many men in our organization whom we know have had political experience to lay out plans for an efficient organization in every ward. We have already been able to set up a good committee in the 1st Congressional District, which is functioning well. We will continue as quickly as possible to set up committees of our membership in every ward."

SHORT MONTH CAUSES DROP IN VEHICLE SALES

Detroit.—February sales of motor vehicles from United States plants primarily due to one less working day in February, the Automobile Manufacturers Association, announced.

Total factory sales in February reached 383,011 units, including 274,847 passenger cars, 107,054 motor trucks and 1,110 motor coaches. For the same month a year ago, U. S. factory sales totaled 373,360 vehicles, which included 267,015 passenger cars, 105,042 trucks and 1,303 coaches.

INJURY BENEFIT RATES RAISED IN 32 STATES

New York.—Legislatures in 32 states have enacted legislation increasing compensation benefits for on-the-job injuries, according to a report issued by the Council of State Governments.

Sixteen states now pay up to $25 a week compensation while five states have a maximum of $30 a week for temporary disability. Six states passed measures providing improved medical care and 20 states increased benefits for dependents of workers killed in occupational accidents.

In addition, six states enacted laws giving protection against loss of health from occupational diseases, bringing the total which have such legislation to 39 states.

The Right to
VOTE
Is Your
Priceless
Heritage
Don't Fail to Use It

Green Opposes UMT Program; Favors Temporary Draft Act

Offers 6-Point Program For Building Strong Defense Policy

Washington.—AFL President William Green reiterated strongly the AFL's opposition to universal military training, but characterized the enactment of a "limited and temporary" draft law as "necessary and desirable" for the nation's security.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Mr. Green advocated a strong national defense policy built around the following 6-point program:

1. A unified, imaginative, strong foreign policy with sufficient funds to support it.
2. An agency utilizing fully the resources of the American trade union movement, to carry to the workers of the world the message of free and democratic life under a government by consent.
3. A research and development program to utilize the best efforts of American scientists.
4. A fully modern air force prepared for any eventuality and backed by modern equipment, facilities and skilled ground force.
5. A highly trained volunteer force of professional soldiers whose ranks are replenished, if necessary, through selective service.
6. An effective program of domestic reform to show the world that democracy can bring social and economic advancement to the people of the world.

Declaring that Communist agression must be stopped, Mr. Green asserted that adequate military preparedness on the part of the United States is "indispensable to meet any threat to world peace and any possible threat to the security of our own land."

The AFL leader warned, however, that in countering the expansionist policy of Soviet Russia "we cannot rely on military strength alone." He said:

"Essentially this is not a conflict of weapons but of political ideas, of political organization and economic strength. The frontier of freedom in Europe cannot be defended without fullest economic cooperation and aid from the United States and without the fullest maintenance of economic stability and human freedom in our land."

In opposing the enactment of a universal military training law, Mr. Green declared it has no place in a well-rounded defense program which should include the production of weapons, the stock-piling of raw materials, research and development of new methods of warfare, and the proper training of the men in the armed services. He said:

"The American Federation of Labor regards the universal military proposal as an undemocratic step toward the militarization of the American way of life, grossly inconsistent with the very principles and ideals which we are proposing to defend.

"The American Federation of Labor carefully weighed the numerous arguments that have been advanced for universal military training; namely, that it would improve the nation's health and be a stabilizing influence on the nation's youth; that it would develop qualities of leadership, raise educational standards and end illiteracy throughout the nation. However laudable these objectives, all of them can and should be achieved without resorting to compulsion of universal military training. Conscription is in essence undemocratic, and nothing its advocates can say about the virtues of military training can change this fact. Measures such as universal military training cannot be justified by any character-building qualities such training might possess.

"Even from the military point of view authorities question the value of universal military training. To what extent does modern warfare require the use of mass armies? How useful can 6 or 12 months of military training be for a war which might take place two, five, ten or twenty years after the individual has completed his training? To what extent will the training to which the average trainee will be subjected become obsolete by the time he is called upon to use it? After a searching study, I am convinced that these and other crucial questions have not been satisfactorily answered by the proponents of universal military training."

In his endorsement of a "limited" draft law, Mr. Green declared the AFL's acceptance of the proposal is conditioned upon the following necessary limitations:

"(1) The draft should be adopted as a temporary emergency measure and made subject to Congressional reconsideration not later than two years from the date of its adoption; (2) it should exempt all veterans; (3) it should not include fathers; (4) it should exempt all included high school students and students in colleges and universities who have already enrolled and those whose courses of study have been substantially advanced and are pending completion; (5) it should exempt workers in essential occupations of industry and service, including those engaged in essential trades and industries, in scientific research and in teaching."

Conferees Approve $6 Billion Aid Plan; Labor Denied Seat on Advisory Board

Washington. — Senate - House conferees agreed upon a bill authorizing an expenditure of $6,000,000,000 for this nation's foreign aid program.

Acting swiftly to compromise the differences between the bills passed separately by the Senate and House, the conferees adopted the "single package" aid plan and dropped consideration of Spain as a participating nation in the European Recovery Program.

As this edition went to press, it was expected that final action would be taken on the compromise measure and the bill sped to the White House for President Truman's signature.

Knocked out of the foreign aid bill was the proposal to transfer American ships to nations participating in the aid program. The American Federation of Labor, one of the staunchest supporters of the aid program, urged that this be done on grounds that transfer of the vessels would mean the widespread unemployment of American seamen, and would serve to weaken our merchant marine. The proposal was eliminated from both Senate and House bills prior to action by the Senate-House conference committee.

The final conference report on the foreign aid bill provided a total of $6,098,000,000 to be used as follows:

For the European Recovery Program, 5.3 billion dollars;

For military aid to Greece and Turkey, 275 million dollars;

For economic aid to China, 336 million dollars, and military aid for China, 125 million dollars;

For the United Nations Children's Fund, 60 million dollars.

One of the agreements reached by the conference committee threw out an AFL proposal adopted in the House version of the bill which provided for the inclusion of representatives of labor, business, farm and other interests on the public advisory board set up to advise the ERP organization. The AFL, in testimony before both Senate and House committees during consideration of the bill, urgently sought representation for labor on this advisory body.

Newly Formed Labor Federation In Haiti Seeks Membership In Hemispheric Body

Washington. — Serafino Romualdi secretary of relations for the Inter-American Confederation of Workers (CIT) and the AFL's Latin-American representative, announced the receipt of an application from the newly organized Federation of Labor of Haiti for membership in the recently formed hemisphereic labor organization.

The application was submitted by M. Moliere J. H. Compas, general secretary of the labor federation in Haiti.

Mr. Romualdi said he referred the application to CIT President Bernardo Ibanez in Chile. He expressed the opinion that the Federation of Labor in Haiti will be admitted as a member of the CIT by unanimous consent of that organization's executive committee.

The labor movement of Haiti was not represented at the recent conference held in Lima, at which meeting the CIT was organized. Mr. Romualdi said he interpreted the decision of the Haitian federation to join the hemispheric body as a remarkable tribute to the prestige and influence already acquired by the new organization in the field of international labor affairs.

The American Federation of Labor played an important role in the organization of the Inter-American Confederation of Workers which was formed to fight against Communist penetration into the free trade union movements in the Western Hemisphere.

George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, was elected as one of the organization's vice-presidents and, as such, serves on the CIT executive committee.

Where Do You Stand?

How do you regard the Taft-Hartley Act?

Are you for it or against it?

Recently, Senator Robert A. Taft and other supporters of this legislation have been making speeches trying to make the public believe that the Taft-Hartley Act is opposed only by labor leaders and that the rank and file of labor union members are really in favor of it.

We think the public ought to know the truth.

That is why we are conducting this nation-wide poll.

This is an entirely secret ballot. We want you to express your honest opinion with perfect freedom. All you have to do is to place a check in the box beside either of the two questions below and mail the clipping to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

I am for the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

I am against the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

Please mark your ballot above and mail to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Note to Editors:—Labor's own poll has been designed to find out whether there is any basis for the claim that union members are in favor of the Taft-Hartley law. Editors are requested to give wide publicity to the poll and urge their readers to participate in the balloting.

BASEBALL TICKET SELLERS WIN INCREASE OF $1 DAILY

New York.—Ticket sellers at the Polo Grounds here, represented by the AFL's Federal Labor Union No. 24182, won a $1-a-day wage increase from the National Exhibition Company, owners of the New York Giants Baseball Club.

The contract sets the new wage scale at $7 a day for weekdays and $9 for Sundays.

Alexander Eltman, attorney for the union, said that unfair labor practices charges filed with the State Labor Relations Board will be withdrawn.

WOMEN CONSTITUTE 28% OF CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

Washington.—The number of women in the labor force increased from January to February of this year, while in the same period last year declines in the number of women employed were reported.

According to Census Bureau reports, women in the civilian labor force now total more than three-quarters of a million above that of February 1947. The present total of 16,752,00 represents 28 percent of the entire labor force.

STATE POLITICAL UNIT LAUNCHES FUNDS DRIVE

Harrisburg, Pa.—The Pennsylvania Federation of Labor launched a drive to raise $1,000,000 to be used to bring about the defeat of congressional supporters of the Taft-Hartley law.

The state AFL's political arm will ask each of its 500,000 members to contribute $2 to the campaign fund. Half of the money will go to Washington headquarters.

James L. McDevitt, of Philadelphia, president of the PFL and its League for Political Education, told delegates at a meeting of state AFL officials to start a vote drive immediately in the fight to defeat Congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley law. This includes 25 Pennsylvania Republicans.

"This," he said, "is a doorbell-ringing job. If we get out and fight and if we get the votes we'll give the political leaders the shock of their lives in November."